4: Richter M, G-5 (ca. 1856-1870) 1870 AW5 Coorg AW5

13 635 634 [162] *Mercara-taluq* with its 5 nâds and 57 villages occupies the middle of Coorg and covers 209 square miles with a population of 15,556 souls, amongst whom there are only 2814 Coorgs. Within this small area all the essential features of the province are comprised:—ranges of high hills and solitary peaks, especially Nurokal-betta and Kóte-betta, fertile rice-valleys and parklike grassland, dense cardamom jungles and extensive coffee plantations, stately forest trees and clumps of graceful bamboos, innumerable clear mountain rills and ever [563] flowing streams and rivers. With the exception of the most easterly portion of the taluq, the climate is everywhere healthy, and the soil fertile and well cultivated both for wet and dry 635 crops. The principal ryots are Coorgs and Gaudas. The 634 four highroads from Mysore, Cannanore, Mangalore and 245 Manjarabâd intersect the taluq at Mercara, hence also the [491] great number of coffee plantations, especially in Mercara-Halérinâd. Nearly the whole length of the Sampâji-ghat as far as the 16th mile the hillslopes are covered with the coffee shrub and there are some most successful plantations. On the north-eastern plateau of the ghat, in Horamalnâd, the Coorg Coffee Company owns an estate of thousand acres. The oldest is the Mercara estate, further to the west, north and east from it are grouped the beautiful and valuable estates: "Glenmore" near the pretty Jessy-falls; "Beltamally" [443] and "Hallery." Thousands of coolies are attracted to this taluq and on Sundays the Mercara bazaar is crowded [464] with them. On the whole the ryots are of a poor class; the 635 proximity of Head-quarters with its various demands seems 634 to fall heavily upon them and to keep aloof richer farmers, 565 besides the alluring temptations of the Mercara shops may induce the ryots to spend their money imprudently and help to impoverish them. The people of *Halérinâd* have always been remarkable for their attachment to the Râjahs' family,